

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, February 27, 2012

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Greenbelt resident John (Denny) Murray, and Eleanor Roosevelt High School staff member Claude Bess, Jr. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis removed the minutes of February 13. With that change, Mr. Putens moved that the consent agenda be approved. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Work Session, December 5, 2011
- Work Session, January 4, 2012
- Regular Meeting, January 9, 2012
- Interview, February 22, 2012

Approved as presented.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION PY38R

Council approved submission of the PY 38R Community Development Block Grant application as outlined by staff and authorized Mayor Davis to execute the PY 38R CDBG Operating Agreement and other related documents.

RENEWAL OF CITY LIQUOR LICENSES

Council approved taking no position on renewals of liquor licenses.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council appointed Matthew Inzeo to the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved that the agenda be approved. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

PRESENTATIONS

National Board Certified Teachers: Mayor Davis explained that the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers National Board Certification to recognize and

reward highly accomplished educators who meet its high and rigorous standards. The assessment for National Board Certification consists of a multimedia teaching portfolio that is used to evaluate pedagogy and student outcomes, and a three-hour assessment center.

Mayor Davis recognized the following educators who obtained this advanced professional certification during the 2011-2012 school year.

Springhill Lake Elementary School	Danielle Todd-Jones
Magnolia Elementary School	Julie Huften
Greenbelt Middle School	Ramon Braza, Danica Woodyard
Eleanor Roosevelt High School	Troy Bradbury, Julian Lord and Michael Samordic

Lady Angels Basketball Team: Mayor Davis announced the team had won their third international championship. Herbert Allen, Head Coach of the Greenbelt Lady Angels, and a member of the team thanked Council for their continued support.

Introduction of New Greenbelt Police Officers: Chief James Craze introduced two of Greenbelt's newest police officers, Jason Jordan Penn and Michael Parsley. Officer Penn previously served as a police officer with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Officer Parsley previously served as a police officer with the Maryland Transportation Authority Police.

Mayor Davis administered the Oath of Office to both officers on February 9, 2012, so they could both begin their field training and assume police duties.

Joe The Dog: Officer Ryan Peck, Board Member of the Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), presented a plaque on behalf of the FOP to honor Joe the Dog who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his family during a burglary last fall. The FOP plaque was accepted by the family of Joe the Dog.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Bill Orleans, requested information on the goals work session on Saturday. Mayor Davis explained the agenda for the session.

MINUTES

February 13, 2012: Mayor Davis requested that under Federal Legislation – Citizens United Decision, the minutes be amended to clarify that “Greenbelt’s” Delegation had signed on to the letter. With that change, Mayor Davis moved approval of the minutes and Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. McLaughlin provided draft responses for the upcoming work session with the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC) to Council. Mr. McLaughlin also provided background materials for Saturday’s work session. Mr. Herling requested an update on State Legislation to require apartment and condominium complexes to

recycle. Mr. Moran reported that the legislation received a favorable vote from a Senate committee.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Ms. Mach reported that the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Communications Committee was planning a Geo-trail re-launch. Mr. Herling announced that the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) had recently received a presentation from volunteer firefighters regarding negotiations about proposed changes to the Volunteer Fire Commission. He also noted that PGCMA was working towards hiring a legislative liaison.

Mr. Jordan reported on the MML Legislative Committee meeting. He commented on a painting party at the Arts Center and noted on their newly renovated, ADA accessible restrooms.

Mayor Davis noted a visit to Springhill Lake and Greenbelt Elementary schools to speak about the If I were Mayor Contest. She reported on several MML activities in her role as President Elect. She also commented on the Greenbelt Foundation Tea.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of HVAC System Evaluation and Assessment for Greenbelt Community Center from Mendoza, Ribas, Farinas & Associates of Rockville, Maryland

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for second reading and moved that it be adopted. Mr. Herling seconded.

Ms. Mach asked if the evaluation covered the entire building, especially the gym. Mr. McNeal responded that it does.

Mr. Herling asked about mold. Mr. McNeal responded that staff would raise this with the engineer. He believed that if air circulation was improved and moisture/humidity was reduced, this would lessen the mold problem.

Mr. Roberts asked about what the City was getting for this amount. Mr. McNeal explained that engineering firm would be looking at fan coil units, duct work and mechanical equipment.

Ms. Pope stated that mold can be a serious problem and suggested the City consider hiring an additional firm with expertise in mold.

Mr. Jordan noted it was an unusually warm winter and asked if this was a factor in the mold situation. Mr. McNeal responded that it wasn't.

Mr. Jordan asked if Mendoza Ribas had worked on the new HVAC equipment at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Mr. McNeal responded that the firm had confirmed the equipment selection for the new units.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Herling - yes

Mr. Jordan	-	yes
Ms. Mach	-	yes
Ms. Pope	-	yes
Mr. Putens	-	yes
Mr. Roberts	-	yes
Mayor Davis	-	yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1088, Book 8)

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Master Police Officer (MPO) John Rogers provided an overview of his School Resource Officer (SRO) activities at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and MPO Kelly Lawson provided an overview of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) classes this year. Both officers also reported on their interaction with other Greenbelt schools.

REVISIONS TO GREENBELT STATION SOUTH CORE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Craze referenced several items that had been added to the agreement to address Council's concerns at the work session.

Mr. Putens noted that the agreement contained \$4.3 Million in financial commitments from the developer, an increase from the \$3.4 Million in the current agreement. Ms. Craze noted this was just for the south core.

Mayor Davis asked about the reforestation project at Indian Creek. Norman Rivera responded there was about 7 acres of reforestation to be done. He indicated there were approved plans for this reforestation.

Mr. Herling asked about a recycling requirement. Mr. Rivera responded that the developer would comply with City and County recycling requirements. Mr. Herling asked about distances between rows of townhouses. Mr. Rivera responded that the rows were close together in a neo-traditional format. Mr. Herling expressed concern about Greenbelt Road traffic and asked about transportation elements in the plan. Mr. Rivera responded that improvements were being made at the intersection with Greenbelt Road, but commented on the connectivity with Metro, trails, shuttle bus and Zipcar as being alternative means of transportation.

Mr. Jordan stated that this had been a long process and that the citizens had been very engaged. He complimented staff on their efforts to negotiate and prepare the proposed agreement. He asked if the owner was amenable to a cooperative or co-housing enterprise to purchase lots. Mr. Corridan responded that SunTrust would consider a proposal that conformed to all the requirements in the agreement.

Mr. Roberts stated he would vote against the agreement because the type of development it facilitates. He indicated there were some good items in the agreement. Mr. Roberts suggested that a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office development would be a better use for this site and stated the current proposal was not smart growth.

Mayor Davis stated that this proposal was more smart growth than the FBI proposal.

Ms. Mach suggested that there were elements similar to historic Greenbelt in this plan. She liked the open free play area.

Mayor Davis suggested that on page 9, number 36 add "and pervious surfaces"

Mr. Putens expressed concern about storm water management on the site.

Mr. Rivera thanked City staff for working closely with them. He believed this would be a premier community for both the City and County.

Ms. Mach moved that Council approve the revised Greenbelt Station South Core Development Agreement and directed staff to prepare the appropriate property covenants for approval at a future meeting. Mr. Herling seconded.

Michael Hartman, 2 Court Gardenway, supported Mr. Robert's opposition to the project. He expressed concern about additional traffic on Greenbelt Road. He suggested that housing was needed for elderly and disabled, specifically one-level housing. He suggested the addition of a pedestrian bridge over Cherrywood Lane.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-G Gardenway, commended the Council and the planning department for all the work that had gone into this. She was not convinced that we need more homes in Greenbelt. She expressed concern that this was not mixed-use development and there was no commitment to pricing. She expressed concern about quality of the homes and suggested they should meet LEED standards. She expressed disappointment that the market research was not provided at the work session.

Ms. Craze responded that this was never going to be a mixed-use development based on a textbook definition. However, she did note that there were elements in the agreement to try and ensure a commercial component. She noted that the City has to approve architecture and there will be many more details which Council will get to review to meet the community's needs.

Bill Orleans stated he thought it was a bad plan. He believed Council was being rushed to approve the agreement tonight. Mr. Orleans suggested that any new development should be encouraged to contribute to the City's existing Greenbelt Connection transportation system.

Mr. Putens moved to call the question. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion to call question passed 7 to 0.

The original motion passed 6 to 1 (Roberts).

BALTIMORE WASHINGTON PARKWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach suggested that after all the hearings, Council should comment on the study. She cited the impacts to the community. She moved the City send a letter opposing the widening. Mr. Roberts seconded. Mayor Davis suggested this item be placed on a future agenda to allow public comment. Mr. Putens agreed. Ms. Mach expressed a willingness to table the motion to the next meeting. Mr. Roberts believed the City should have taken a position early on.

Ms. Mach moved to table the item to the next meeting and schedule a public hearing at the next meeting. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

STATE LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda items.

SB 360/HB 415 – SHA Signs on Right-of-Way – Permits & HB 359 – Temporary Advertising Signs on State Highways

Mr. Putens moved that Council oppose SB360/HB 415 & HB 359. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

SB 971/HB 1302 – Maryland Transportation Financing and Infrastructure Investment Act

Several Council members expressed concern about this legislation. There was discussion about postponing consideration and raising it with the City's delegation at the upcoming Legislative Dinner.

Mayor Davis moved to defer this item to the next regular meeting on March 12. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

HB 563/SB 567 – Telecommunications Taxes – Reform Commission and Moratorium

Mr. Moran stated that Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) had requested that the City oppose this legislation. Mr. Jordan reported that MML had chosen to support the bill with an amendment requesting municipal representation on the commission.

Council agreed to discuss this legislation at the upcoming meeting with the Delegation and defer it until the next Council meeting.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, February 27, 2012, at 12:32a.m. on February 28, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held February 27, 2012."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor